

UNEVEN REVIVAL OF "CAST"

PLAY PLEASING, BUT OUT OF JOINT FOR TO-DAY.

Story Not Fitted to Present Social Conditions—Its Story of the Past and Its Appeal Unreal—Miss Tempest and Mr. Huntley Overshadow Others.

"Cast" must have been new to most of the audience that witnessed the revival of the Robertson comedy at the Empire Theatre last night. Youngsters have had few opportunities to see the comedy which has been relegated to back parlors, lounges, church basements and other retreats of the amateur for so many years that even the stock companies in the smaller cities revive it apologetically.

Charles Frohman seized the opportunity of putting forward several popular favorites in roles they had previously acted in the famous play to give the present generation of theatregoers a chance to make its acquaintance. Foremost among these was Marie Tempest, who appeared last night as Polly, while her two associates in a London revival of the work were Graham Brown and Julian Roche. Elsie Ferguson, G. P. Huntley, Edwin Arden and Maud Milton were the other familiar characters of the comedy.

"Cast" has more than forty years to its credit, although nobody has ever yet thought of calling it an "old comedy." "London Assurance" had acquired that dignity long before it had reached the age of the most notable of the cup and saucer comedies, as it seems as if "Cast" does not possess the qualities that will ever carry it into this classic category. It certainly shows no traces of the grand style. It was its frank and simple protest against that style in fact which won its fame and its author's.

"Cast" has lived long enough to see the very motive on which it is founded lose all value as dramatic material. The scenes in the play that have ceased to have any ring of truth are those between George and the Marchioness. They are founded on the hypothesis that aristocracy is noble and vulgarly deplorable. Aristocracy is now much less significant, however, than anybody forty years ago ever supposed it could be. The power of vulgarity on the other hand is so overwhelming that, if it is not respected, it is at least feared. So there is no longer any theatrical value in the contrast between the aristocrats of the play on one hand and the blunder group of posed to them.

Last night the greatest admiration for "Cast" arose from the strength of the purely human qualities in the work. There is still potent appeal in the episode of George and Esther's love, in the parting at the close of the second act, in which George honors his pleasant wife, to the prejudice of his mother, and in the scenes of Esther's pathetic resignation in the long third act—the blood of "Cast" still flows at these points even if its arteries seem hardened whenever the mechanical comedy of Polly and the Marchioness's talk of family begins. It is easy still to understand its great popular success through so many long theatrical epochs. Any comedy so vigorous and so true to life has not only survived the rest of the Robertson plays, but all of its contemporaries.

It would be interesting to know if there is in the whole theatre of those mid-Victorian years another play of contemporary life that would so well stand performance to-day. It is something to be the best of its period, even if it is the fashion to-day to sneer at the whole Robertson drama as an insignificant phase of the theatre's development without literary importance or any real fidelity to the life it pretended to portray. It may be true that Robertson derived much of his inspiration from the German and French comedies, but he was a skilful theatrical craftsman than a student of nature and went at his work with no great sincerity; yet any dramatist who has enough of heart to play such enduring heart interest as "Cast" possesses after all these years need not be wounded by the same kind of criticism that has been Robertson's lot for a generation.

The fact that the actors to whom the comedy episodes fell were so much better than their associates could not totally impair the present merits of the play. Marie Tempest and G. P. Huntley as Polly and George were far ahead of the actors who then and seemed at times the only two in the least acquainted with the spirit of the play. Miss Tempest's brilliant acting indeed threw the whole performance out of scale. She was quite as predominant as New York is in the habit of seeing her in other plays and when her breezy natural shrew in the proceedings was temporarily withdrawn there was only Mr. Huntley's extremely unctious and human portrait of the tippling Recies to supply anything like a substitute for her. Edwin Arden was pitifully miscast as the ardent, dashing George d'Alroy, and his efforts with what was probably intended for a lip further complicated his difficulties. Certainly there is humor in the part of Captain Hargree. He is shown more than a hearty home although John Rogers suggested only his solemnity. Yet what opportunities the role afforded. With these two characters well at least, so unconventionally played, there was a strange lack of balance in the representation.

Graham Brown made Sam Gerridge a very polite, self-contained young man, but he would have been more to the improvement of the general effect. Why in the world did he not play d'Alroy? Elsie Ferguson was as particular tact the scene at the close of the second act. Maud Milton had all the necessary traits for the *Margot de St. M.* but her extorting distinction of manner and appearance. She helped to strengthen the conviction that the best qualities of "Cast" to-day could have been much more attractively revealed had the aristocrats been so well represented as their opposites.

LUNCHEON FOR PEARY.

Explore the Guest of William Berri at the Brooklyn Club.

A luncheon was given yesterday afternoon to Commander Robert E. Peary, U. S. N. on the eve of his departure for Europe by William Berri at the Brooklyn Club. Among the guests were Mayor Gaynor, Comptroller Prednargast, former Mayor Schieren, Borough President Myers, Timothy L. Woodruff, Dr. St. Clair McKelway, George W. Channing, Carl Robert A. Bartlett, chief counsel for the Peary expedition, and many prominent business men.

Each guest received a souvenir in the shape of a silk American flag, and for Capt. Bartlett there was also an English flag. Incidentally Commander Peary was initiated by Mr. Berri into the unique organization known as the Peary Pease Club. On this notable occasion Mr. Berri presented the honored guest with a new \$20 gold coin, and in accepting it Commander Peary expressed the hope that he would never be so close to the wall that he would have to spend any part of it.

Addresses were made between the courses by Mayor Gaynor, Dr. McKelway, Comptroller Prednargast and Alexander Gilbert, and Justice Crane read a poem called "Peary at the Pole" written by Lambert B. Thomas.

Peary to Lecture May 10.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. London, April 25.—It is announced that Commander Robert E. Peary, the discoverer of the north pole, will deliver a lecture here before the Royal Geographical Society on May 10.

LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

"There's no city in this country that makes such a holiday occasion of Saturday nights as you do here in New York," said a man who travels from coast to coast several times a year. "Why, it's something that every stranger's sure to notice, and more than that, to remember. Take your theatres, for instance. It's no use trying to get tickets unless you're willing to pay an extra price and get them at a ticket agency, for everything's sold out long in advance for a Saturday night. Then look at your restaurants. Packed, every blessed one of them, with tables often engaged two or over and one set of people waiting until the first instant gets through. Places where music isn't down for every night always have it for the Saturday night dinner, and take it all in all there's a general atmosphere of jollity of a Saturday night in New York that can't be matched anywhere in this country."

"Have New Yorkers ever thought about what a poor convention town this is?" said the travelling salesman. "It is our reputation that drives conventions away. We are too giddy. While working through the State on my last trip I met many people who were planning to attend some convention. They were going to Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, to every town of any size in fact except New York."

"Why don't you fellows ever meet in our town?" I asked the president of a metal workers' association.

"Because we can't accomplish so much there," said he. "New York offers too many attractions and temptations. The delegates won't stick to their job. When this association was new we met in New York. At every session the hall was nearly empty. Men who ought to have been there making speeches were absent, and after seeing the sights. After losing money on three conventions that nobody attended we said good-bye to New York and agreed to meet in some place where there are no sights to see."

New freemen while learning the ropes in the business of saving human lives from peril through fire can always count on an appreciative audience as they go through their stunts in the rear of Fire Headquarters.

As the new firemen scale the face of the six-story building or let themselves down from the roof on ropes or jump from an upper window into the life net below there is a crowd on Sixty-eighth street watching the daredevil performance of the blue-shirted men. It is a chance crowd of passersby that forget their hurry to see the imaginary rescues from imaginary flames.

Women are often at the windows of the asylum opposite, the thrillers of the heads double, the thrillers of the seeming recklessness and daring of the fire heroes.

"Down on South street," said an urban roamer, "there are still places as there have been there for many years, where now in this high priced era you can still get just the same as ever good oysters and good clams at a regular uniform price of one cent each. In the open air these places are: you stand and eat in the street. An abundantly supplied big bowl of oysters is at one end of the little counter, and at the other one bottled condiments, vinegar, pepper sauce, horseradish and ketchup, and you help yourself to these freely and make up the price of the clam as many or as few as you desire. If five oysters is all you want, why, that is entirely satisfactory to the proprietor, as it is if you want ten or fifteen or twenty, and surely this is pleasing to the customer."

It is familiarly known that there are many things in many domains that we would do if we wanted to do them, but we don't because the doing would not be profitable; and the same principle might apply in the purchase of food. There may be many things we could still buy at things as cheap now as ever, but it might cost us more to get there and back than we would save in the purchase."

NEWS OF PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

William Morris Gets an Option on Bernhardt's Services in Vaudeville.

William Morris returned yesterday from a trip to Europe filled with hopes of securing for his vaudeville circuit Sarah Bernhardt and Mme. Réjane. He secured an option, he said, on the services of both. He had little trouble harpooning Harry Lauder for twenty-two weeks. He will go back to London by the Cunarder Mauretania next month with his lawyer, George Leventritt, and will try to make a deal by which he will be able to carry out his scheme of bringing the world's greatest actress to America. He has included Cassie Curlett, a song and dance specialist who is doing stunts in London, to give him three seasons, and Mizzi Hojia, a Hungarian actress, also will appear at the American Music Hall.

A. L. Erlanger of the firm of Klaw & Erlanger arrived home yesterday from his twenty day trip to Europe one day behind his schedule time. He said that one of the most gratifying things in connection with his return was the reception he met at the hands of Charles Frohman, who had been in London and the estimation in which he is held by the London public.

There will be a professional matinee of "The Spendthrift" at the Empire Theatre to-morrow afternoon, given in honor of Miss Mabel Taliaferro and Robert Hilliard, stars under the management of Frederic Thompson, whose recent engagements have not been such as to afford an opportunity for witnessing this play.

Miss Georgia O'Hamey, whose performance of the role of *Ky* in "The Seven Days" at the Astor Theatre has attracted attention, was engaged yesterday by Wagnhals & Kemper for a term of several years. She will remain in the cast of "Seven Days" for another season, after which Wagnhals & Kemper will place her in a new comedy the rights to which they have secured recently.

Behrmann, for the revival of "Jin the Penman" under the management of William A. Brady, Inc., began yesterday at the Lyric Theatre under the personal direction of Mr. Behrmann.

The company were present with the exception of Miss Florence Roberts, who is to appear as Mrs. Raleigh and who is still on tour at the head of her own company.

THE SEAGUERS.

Giatti-Camozzi, Peary and Seth Low Going on the Kronprinzessin.

Sailing to-day by the North German Lloyd liner Kronprinzessin Cecilie, for Plymouth, Cherbourg and Naples:

Baron Louis Ambrogio de Sedan, Countess J. Bernadotte, Count Alexander Benckendorff, Mr. and Mrs. Gatti-Camozzi, James De W. Cutting, Mrs. Livingston Cutting, Baron Heyde de Gland, Mrs. and Mr. Adolph Lewinsohn, Mr. and Mrs. Beth Low, Don. Sebastian de Mier, Commander and Mrs. R. E. Peary, Ernest Thalman, the Countess of Strassford and Mr. and Mrs. Percy G. Williams.

Passengers by the Holland-America liner Ryndam, for Boulogne and Rotterdam:

Calvin Barr, the Rev. Dr. C. G. Currie, Herbert Ruggie, Mrs. Robert Hackett, Dr. and Mrs. James E. King, Mrs. Isabel Hackett, and Mrs. J. G. Hightshower, Capt. W. E. Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Wierdema and Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Wilson.

The Wall Street "Evening Sun."

The Wall Street edition of THE EVENING SUN contains all the financial news and the stock and bond quotations to the close of the market. The closing quotations, including the "bit and cent" quotations, with additional news matter, are contained also in the night edition of THE EVENING SUN.

MISS ESTELLE REID DROWNED

AMERICAN GIRL, NOT A VICTIM OF VIOLENCE AT NAPLES.

Marks on Body Indicted by Rocks After Death—Young Woman Had Lived in New York and Enjoyed an Independent Income—Sisters Living in America.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

NAPLES, April 25.—It has been found that Miss Estelle Reid, whose body was washed ashore here two days ago, was a Californian. She had resided abroad for seven years.

As a result of a post mortem examination held to-day it was decided that her death was due entirely to drowning and that lacerations found on the body were caused after her death by the body striking the rocks before it was cast ashore.

Chicago, April 25.—Mrs. Blair, wife of John Blair, an actor playing in Chicago, is prostrated in her apartments in the Elms Hotel, 1034 East Fifty-third street, by the receipt of information that the body of the young American girl found murdered on the beach at Naples, Italy, is that of her sister, Estelle Reid, an art student. She is under the constant care of physicians and is said to be in a critical condition.

Miss Estelle Reid, who was found drowned in the Bay of Naples last week, was the younger sister of Mrs. Bertha Reid Willis of 300 Riverside Drive, this city, and Mrs. John Blair, who was Miss Ida Chester Reid until two years ago, when she married John Blair, the actor. Miss Estelle Reid went abroad a year ago and since that time had been travelling in Europe. Mrs. Willis, her sister, has heard no details concerning her death beyond those supplied by the newspaper cablegrams. She had not decided yesterday what would be done in regard to the return of the body to this country.

The parents of the three sisters are dead. They were at one time residents of Peasbush, after their father's death they came to this city, where they lived at 121 Madison avenue, spending their summers at Cornish, N. H. Miss Estelle Reid was about twenty-one years old. She had an independent income.

Mrs. Blair also spent several years in Europe. Returning to this country she became associated with Virginia Potter, a sister of the late Bishop of this city, whom she assisted in her missionary and charitable work. She met John Blair, the actor, two years ago while he was appearing in Mrs. Patrick Campbell's company and the two were married. They lived at 81 East Eighty-sixth street until Mr. Blair's position in "The Melting Pot" took him on the road. Then they moved to Chicago.

TO MANAGE THE HALL OF FAME.

Chancellor MacCracken to Work After His Retirement.

The New York University committee of fifteen, to whom the letter of Chancellor MacCracken of February 24, saying that he intended to resign, was sent, reported to the council yesterday afternoon, a unanimous request that the chancellor be asked to continue in office. The chancellor replied that his purpose remained unaltered, and at the meeting of the corporation he presented his letter of resignation.

April 19, 1910.

To the Venerable Council of New York University.

DEAR SIRS: In accordance with my declaration of my purpose to you two months ago, I hereby resign the chancellorship of New York University and also the professorship of philosophy of the same, to take effect upon September 28, 1910, being my seventieth birthday. I am grateful to my fellow members of the council for the confidence which has been placed in me, and I remain, I repeat, a devoted and loyal member of the university for an indefinite period. I cannot believe it wise to change my long matured resolve.

I ask leave to retain one task which is quite outside the duties which the statutes of New York University require of me, and I mean the task of taking care for the fulfillment of the provisions of the trust which was accepted by the university ten years ago in the founding of the Hall of Fame. I enclose my suggestion of such a statute. Very truly yours,

H. M. MACCRACKEN.

This statute was adopted by the council to meet the suggestions given in the letter of Chancellor MacCracken to the committee of the council upon the Hall of Fame and to expend them for the edifice and for the addition thereto of statues, busts and other memorials such as are in the case of the published plans of the same, also for an endowment for the maintenance of both the building and of the statue work of the foundation as prescribed by its constitution. provided that this committee shall make such recommendations to the council as it shall deem proper, and shall also be authorized to receive and accept of donations for the same.

The question of the succession to the chancellorship was referred to the committee of fifteen appointed at the February meeting. Eighteen members of the council were present.

DR. J. B. WALKER ENGAGED.

Well Known Surgeon to Wed Miss Mai Edmundson Hackett.

The engagement is announced of Miss Mai Edmundson Hackett, daughter of Charles Ludovic Hackett, to Dr. John B. Walker. Miss Hackett's mother was Miss Margaret Hoffman, a daughter of the late Eugene Augustus Hoffman, dean of the General Theological Seminary. Her sister Margaret is the wife of Albert G. Walker. Miss Hackett is a grandniece of Mrs. Samuel Sloan and a cousin of Mrs. Van Vechten Gloom.

Dr. Walker is the son of the Rev. Dr. A. B. Walker of Wellesley Mass. He was graduated from Harvard University and from the Harvard Medical School. He is professor of surgery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, visiting surgeon to Bellevue Hospital and was the close friend and associate of the late Dr. William T. Bull. He is a member of the University, Harvard and Brook clubs and of numerous scientific and other societies and associations.

The date of the wedding has not yet been announced.

Deaths of J. K. Hackett.

James K. Hackett, the actor, applied yesterday in the United States District Court for a discharge from bankruptcy. Of 145 creditors named in his schedules one, the Electric Carriage and Specialty Company, with a claim of \$97, appeared in opposition and the case went over. Hackett's schedules showed at first liabilities of \$178,67, but have been reduced as he has included additional claims which had been inadvertently omitted.

Mrs. Andrea Dippel III.

According to a private telephone record yesterday in this city Mrs. Andrea Dippel, wife of the administrative director of the Metropolitan Opera Company, is gravely ill in Nice of typhoid fever. She sailed recently by the southern route and when she arrived in Nice after a stay in Naples and Rome she was taken ill at the home of a friend who was visiting.



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DRAMATIC ART BOOSTED.

"The Girl With the Whopping Cough" and Valdesa Suratt Do It.

Dramatic art had a boost last night through the modest effort to entertain offered by Miss Valdesa Suratt in costumeless gowns. Miss Suratt had long promised a waiting word that on this occasion she would positively appear without costumes. Whether she did or not does not matter very much. The effect on dramatic art was the same.

The particular dramatic masterpiece chosen by Miss Suratt for this notable occasion rejoiced in the title "The Girl With the Whopping Cough." Stanislaus Stange is set down as the author, but the printer or whoever is responsible for the programme relieved him of much of the burden by laying the original responsibility on the poor, long suffering French. However, neither the author nor the original source needed to make any special effort to put together a play. The personality of the star was quite sufficient to secure the effect aimed at. She needed neither lines nor costumes to score her points. Her personality did it all.

Without Miss Suratt the piece would have been a rather dull and stupid thing. With her it was refined. There wasn't anything in it that hadn't been served up in similar farces for the last three generations. The lines that made the most frantic effort to be suggestive fell flat, even with an audience that was hungry and thirsty for that particular kind of nourishment. The members of the cast, particularly the women, were coarse and strident, and needed stage managing in the song and dance which Miss Suratt and Jack Henderson did in the last act the latter displayed some grace and agility. It is only kindness to the actors and actresses to refrain from mentioning their names and the parts they played in the production.

After the first act there was a procession of flowers and set pieces up the two aisles that took half an hour to pass a given point. There were wreaths and horse-drawn carriages with ribbons inscribed "To Our Favorite" there were horns of plenty and wheelbarrows and ships and a life-sized lamp post which had a base of Burgundy to William Caxton, with her signature, which is considered extremely rare, fetched \$355.

A paper containing "indentures" signed by William Penn conveying land in Pennsylvania was withdrawn.

The Blathway correspondence brought a total of \$43,350. Thirteen manuscripts and thirty-five printed maps brought \$1,450. The grand total of the sale was \$52,795.

WINS IN AUTOGRAPH CHASE.

Pauline Chase Captures Celebrities to Help Actors' Fund Fair.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 25.—Pauline Chase, the actress who secured an autograph photograph of Col. Roosevelt for the Actors' Fund Fair in New York, for which she had a London bid of \$50, has secured a number of additional autographic pictures for the fair.

Her collection includes Ellen Terry, Sir Herbert Beerhohn Tree, John Hare, Seymour Hicks, Gertrude Millar and Mme. Melba.

FISHES FOR THE MUSEUM.

Fine Shark Specimen Secured in Florida—Big Sea Bass and Other Things.

Many specimens of fish, including sharks that grow in southern seas, have been obtained recently by an expedition on the yacht Tekla, in command of her owner, Alessandro Fabbrì, for the collections of the American Museum of Natural History. The expedition left New York early in the year, bound for the south Atlantic coast and the waters of the West Indies and Florida. John T. Nichols, who accompanied the expedition as the museum's representative, reports that some of the species obtained are new to the collections in the museum.

One of the regions visited was the edge of the Everglades, where the Tekla anchored near Shark River. Several large gray sharks with broad, blunt heads and saw edged teeth, were captured there. From the number a fine specimen nine feet long was selected and plaster moulds for a cast were made from it. There was also captured a huge sea bass weighing several hundred pounds, and a cast was made of the big bass have already been received at the museum.

Smith & Company's sales of Shark Reef in New York City for its week ending Saturday, April 23, averaged 11.30 cents per pound.—Adm.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

Home-Made Tonic for Spring Disorders

("Medicine" in Women's Journal.)

I receive so many letters every

spring from persons who complain of

a tired feeling on arising every morn-

ing of a sort of "all gone," "don't

care" condition that I am forced to

believe that everybody needs a tonic

in the spring to purify the blood, tone

up the stomach and liver and restore

the human body to proper condition